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TO : WASHINGTON HONOLULU
FROM : SAIGON 0966, 17 SEPTEMBER 1963

1. AFTER MAKING AND BREAKING FOUR APPOINTMENTS WITH CAS OFFICER, [REDACTED] SENT MESSAGE ON 5 SEPT VIA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THAT HE CONSIDERED IT BEST IN PRESENT CLIMATE THAT CAS OFFICER NOT COME TO [REDACTED] OWING HEAVY SURVEILLANCE.
TRANSPARENCY THIS EXCUSE INDICATED BY ASSURANCES THAT [REDACTED]
THOUGHT IT PERFECTLY IN ORDER TO CONTINUE VISIT HIS [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] NOT MORE THAN FIFTY FEET FROM MAIN GATE. ONE SURVEILLANCE WOULD COVER BOTH.

2. IN HOUR CONVERSATION [REDACTED] AND CAS OFFICER WENT OVER VARIOUS SUBJECTS, FIRST BEING ARTICLE ON CAS IN VIETNAM TIMES, AND CAS OFFICER ASKED [REDACTED] TO GIVE [REDACTED] FULL ACCOUNT OF CONVERSATION. CAS OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT LIKE MOST EXPOSES THIS WAS MISHMASH OF FACT AND FANCY, THAT TO EXTENT IT WAS ACCURATE THE WRITER DISCUSSED [REDACTED] WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED BY U.S. AND GVN, IN MOST CASED BY [REDACTED] IT WOULD THEREFORE BE HEIGHT OF ILLOGIC FOR U.S. TO SPEND LARGE SUMS AND EFFORTS ON BEHALF GOVERNMENT WHICH WE SIMULTANEOUSLY ATTEMPTING OVERTHROW. CAS OFFICER TOLD [REDACTED] TO TELL [REDACTED] THAT IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES CAS HAD NO CHOICE BUT REVIEW ALL PROJECTS.

3. [REDACTED] BROUGHT VARIOUS MESSAGES ON WHICH [REDACTED] ASKED FOR CAS OFFICER'S OPINION. FIRST WAS QUERY WHETHER CAS OFFICER AGREED WITH [REDACTED] THAT PRES KENNEDY ERRED IN STATING GVN OUT OF TOUCH WITH PEOPLE AND ALSO THAT BUDDHISTS BEING REPRESSED. CAS OFFICER SAID HE DISAGREED [REDACTED] ON BOTH COUNTS AND CONCURRED

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COMPLETELY WITH PRES KENNEDY, CITING IN BOTH CASES EARLIER AND FAIRLY DETAILED CONVERSATIONS WITH [REDACTED] WHO HAD SPOKEN STRONGLY AGAINST GVN FOR HANDLING OF BUDDHISTS AND ALSO DENOUNCED DIEM AND NHU BY NAME FOR MOUTHING THEORIES WHICH WERE MEANINGLESS TO POPULATION, WHO [REDACTED] HAD LOST 150,000 KILLED IN PAST TEN YEARS. IT DISAPPOINTING TO SEE SUCH CRAVEN, [REDACTED] CHANGE OF HEART ON PART OF SENIOR AND INTELLIGENT OFFICER, AND NOT SURPRISING HE EMBARRASSED DELIVER SUCH OPINIONS PERSONALLY. STATION HAS HAD NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] OFFICER SINCE 5 SEPTEMBER.

4. APART FROM FOREGOING, STATION IS TAKING GOOD LOOK AT
[REDACTED] FOR ANOTHER REASON, NAMELY POSSIBLE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HAS ALWAYS PROVIDED [REDACTED] TO STATION PER OUR SPECIFICATIONS, BUT THEY COULD OBVIOUSLY BE MEANINGLESS SINCE [REDACTED] CANNOT BE CHECKED. REQUEST HQS RESERVE JUDGMENT UNTIL STATION [REDACTED] HAVE HAD CHANCE TO PIN DOWN. NEXT STEPS INCLUDE CONSULTATION [REDACTED] (NOTE: THIS HANDLED WITH [REDACTED] WHO HAS FULL CAS CLEARANCE), FOLLOWED BY JOINT MEETING WITH [REDACTED] AND REQUEST FOR EXPLANATIONS WHERE NECESSARY. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER [REDACTED] CAN BE PROVED, STATION [REDACTED] HAVE TENTATIVELY AND INFORMALLY CONCLUDED THAT BEST GENERAL GROUND RULES WILL BE FOR [REDACTED]

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SUPPORT [redacted]

[redacted] ALTHOUGH THIS SOLUTION MAY BE TOO PAT BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE

[redacted] AT LEAST

THIS PROBLEM HAS NOT ARISEN YET. EFFECT OF THIS TYPE ARRANGEMENT
WILL BE FOR STATION TO CONCENTRATE ON [redacted]

[redacted] STATION

WILL ADVISE SOONEST, PROBABLY WITHIN WEEK.

END OF MESSAGE

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